IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17 (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

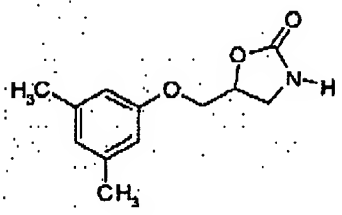
24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

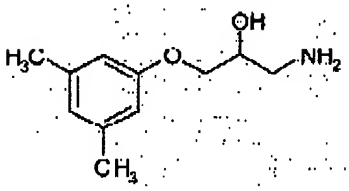
27. (Cancelled)

28. A novel process for the preparation of 5-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)methyl-2-oxazolidinone (formula 1) comprising

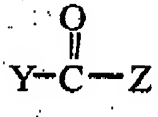


Formula 1

reacting 3-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)-2-hydroxypropylamine, compound of formula 2, or its acid addition salt with a compound of formula 3,



Formula 2



Formula 3

wherein Y and Z are selected from X, CCl_3CO, 1-imidazolyl or substituted imidazolyl, and OR; wherein X is a halo radical, and R is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted linear, branched or cyclic alkyl radical, and aryl or heteroaryl radical.

29. A process as claimed in claim 28 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a base.

30. A process as claimed in claim 29 wherein the base is potassium carbonate.

31. A process as claimed in claim 28 wherein in the compound of formula 3 Y is a halo radical and Z is OR wherein R is a linear C_1 to C_4 alkyl radical.

32. A process as claimed in claim 31 wherein the compound of formula 3 is ethyl chloroformate.

33. A process as claimed in claim 28 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a facilitator.

34. A process as claimed in claim 33 wherein the facilitator is selected from cyclic and acyclic polyethers.

35. A process as claimed in claim 34 wherein the facilitator is poly(ethylene glycol) with an average molecular weight in the range between 200 to 10,000.

36. A process as claimed in claim 28 wherein the molar ratio of compound of formula 2 to compound of formula 3 is in the range of about 1:0.8 to 1:1.5.

37. A process as claimed in claim 28 wherein the 5-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)methyl 2 oxazolidinone (formula 1) is obtained in a substantially pure form and has a purity greater than 99%.

38. A process for purifying 5-(3,5- dimethylphenoxy)methyl-2-oxazolidinone (formula 1) by crystallizing 5-(3,5- dimethylphenoxy)methyl-2-oxazolidinone (formula 1) from an organic solvent system.

39. A process as claimed in claim 38 wherein the 5-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)methyl-2-oxazolidinone (formula 1) is obtained in a substantially pure form and has a purity greater than 99.5%.

40. A process as claimed in claim 38 wherein the 5-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)methyl-2-oxazolidinone (formula 1) is obtained in a substantially pure form and has a purity greater than 99.9%.

41. A process as claimed in claim 38 wherein the 5-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)methyl-2-oxazolidinone (formula 1) is obtained in a substantially pure form and has a purity greater than 99.5% and no individual impurity that is more than 0.05%.

42. A process as claimed in claim 38 wherein the organic solvent system is a mixture of acetone and toluene.

43. A process as claimed in claim 42 wherein the volume ratio of acetone : toluene is about 0.5 : 1.0 to 1 : 10.